

Outer Banks Repeater Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1234
Nags Head, NC 27959

May 1, 1995

The Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

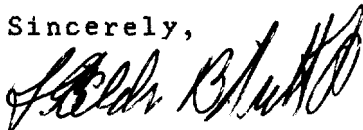
Re: RM-8626

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Sir or Madame:

Please find enclosed six copies of a response to
Petition Number RM-8626.

Sincerely,



Fielden B. Nutter, Jr.
WB8PAG
Vice President

No. of Copies rec'd 0+5
List A B C D E Wireless

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554
In the Matter of

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MAY 02 1995

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Amendment of Section
97.111 (b) (5) and (6)

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) RM-8626
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The Outer Banks Repeater Association, Inc., with over 85 members, of which several live out of the local area, was formed by a group of six dedicated amateurs in 1985. We were an off-shoot of the Fessenden Amateur Radio Club, named in honor of a radio pioneer, who performed many of his communications experiments in our area. The OBRA is indeed represents Amateur Radio in a "Land of Firsts". Sir Walter Raleigh attempted to establish the first english speaking colony in the New World on Roanoke Island, the site of our primary repeater and the county seat of Dare County, and the Wright Brothers made the first successful manned powered flight at Kitty Hawk only a few miles away.

Because of the "resort nature" of the area several of our members live out of the area, many other amateurs own property and still others vacation here. These non-resident amateurs depend on the ONE-WAY TRANSMISSIONS made by the American Radio Relay League's station, WIAW and the ARRL affiliated Official Relay and Bulletin Stations for timely, locally detailed information concerning the sever weather conditions that the Outer Banks of North Carolina are noted for and disasters such as the collapse of the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge in October 1990, which is the only bridge leading to Hatteras Island.

The Outer Banks Repeater Association, Inc. as well as other area amateur radio organizations depend heavily on the ONE-WAY TRANSMISSION made by WIAW and others of training and operational bulletins to maintain the highest level of proficiency in dealing with emergencies as mentioned above. The Dare County Commission and the Dare County Emergency Control Group have recognized that "amateur radio is the only dependable, immediately available means of communications in the event of an emergency". Many towns in the area have also come to the same conclusion. To eliminate ONE-WAY TRANSMISSIONS as request by Mr. Fredrick O. Maia, W5YI would greatly diminish the efficiency of amateur radio operators in northeastern North Carolina.

To address another facet of amateur radio that would be effected, the elimination of ONE-WAY TRANSMISSIONS of Morse Code Practice by any number of dedicated amateurs, including WIAW would directly impact the very core of FCC position that on the orderly development and advancement within the amateur radio service. Many would by and already licensed amateur radio operators have, for decades depended on these ONE-WAY TRANSMISSIONS of code practice sessions that are run on a regularly scheduled basis on specific amateur radio frequencies below 30 MHz to learn or improve

their proficiency in the use of Morse Code. At the last meeting of the Outer Banks Repeater Association, Inc. many in attendance indicated that they had used these ONE-WAY TRANSMISSIONS for that purpose.

The petitioner, Mr. Maia, W5YI has a definite pecuniary interest in the passage of his petition. His commercial activities include the operation of the largest Volunteer Examiner Coordinators in the United States, development, publishing and distribution of study guides and exam preparation materials, including Morse Code Practice Tapes, the publication for sale of "The W5YI Report", a monthly information newsletter and the "service of renewing" amateur licenses for a \$5.00 fee. Even a non-amateur observing this situation could easily see that Mr. Maia is in a position to derive financial benefits from the acceptance of his petition.

One point Mr. Maia makes that we feel is invalid is that the same results derived from the regular published ONE-WAY TRANSMISSION of Morse Code Practice Sessions within the amateur bands below 30Mhz can be realized by the use of one of several computer programs and that the scheduled ONE-WAY TRANSMISSION of important training and information bulletins are available on various computer on-line services. Many amateur radio operators do not own a telephone modem to allow them to connect to such a service, have usage privileges for these services or even own a computer! How, if his petition is accepted, would these amateurs candidates learn Morse Code or licensed amateurs improve their proficiency in the use of Morse Code in order to upgrade their licenses and how would they receive the important training and information bulletins in a timely manner?

It cannot be denied that the American Radio Relay League is involved in several of the same activities. However they are not involved for profit and the League does far more in the interest of amateur radio and the general public of both the United States of America and for that matter the world.